



**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
March 26, 2015**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President  
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President  
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Michael Bearden  
Gladbrook

Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Oskaloosa

Angela English  
Dyersville

Rosie Hussey  
Clear Lake

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller  
Mason City and  
Wayne County

Hannah Rens  
Student Member  
Sioux City

Brad A. Buck  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Angela English, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, and Hannah Rens. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Staci Hupp, Jeff Berger, David Tilly, Nicole Proesch, Thomas Mayes, Amy Williamson, Shan Seivert, Amy Vybiral, Kent Farver, Pradeep Kotamraju, Phil Wise, Rita Martens, Marietta Rives, Sandy Johnson, Beth Happe, Isbelia Arzola, Larry Bice, Eric St Clair, Yvette McCulley, Janet Boyd, Cindy Butler, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Amanda Krenz, WOI; McKenzie Ryan, Des Moines Register; Chris Mitchell, Shannon Hayes, and Scott Montgomery, ACT; Rod Boshart, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Tom Hinrichs, Jennifer Varellas, Bob Lynn, Shelley Mount, Monica Whitehead, Pam Nebel, Farragut Community School District; Terry Kenealy and Dave Mincer, Hamburg Community School District; M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Al Rowe, Kirkwood Community College; Erin Murphy, Lee Enterprises; Kris Kilbarda, Grand View College; Tom Brotherton, David Gottsche, Emily Gottsche, Peggy Gottsche, Val Newhouse, Iowa Lakes Community College; Joni Decker, Randy Decker, Decker Precision Machining; Layla Sidding; Hana Gili; Khansa Lutfi; Rebecca Buening, Dan Flaherty, Scott McKissick, and Carole Sissel, Davenport Central High School; Lane Plugge, Green Hills Area Education Agency; and Clemencia Spizzirri, Iowa Teacher of the Year.

### **STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – OPEN ENROLLMENT APPEALS**

Nicole Proesch, Legal Counsel, Office of the Director, and Thomas Mayes, Attorney, Division of Learning and Results, led a work session on State Board appeals.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Jurisdiction
- Open Enrollment Appeals
- Appeal Process
- Subject Matter
- Standing
- Mootness
- Ripeness
- Scope of Review
- Review of Proposed Decision
- Other State Board Appeals

There was discussion regarding building closure issues, whether parental rights to appeal a decision are lost once a student turns 18 years old, timing of paperwork for open enrollment appeals, whether the current definition of harassment is being reviewed, the State Board of Education's (Board) authority, and whether the current bullying and harassment law can be changed.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

State Board President Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

It was moved by Mike Knedler and seconded by Angela English that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Legislative Update**

Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, provided a legislative update. She reported on the specifics of the school start date and supplemental state aid bills.

Seivert provided an update on the Department's bills. The bills are:

- At-risk and dropout prevention funding
- Child care oversight and licensing
- Payment of student costs, psychiatric facilities
- Gap tuition assistance program
- Education department technical clarifications and efficiencies
- Iowa Principal Leadership Institute Advisory Council
- Beginning teacher mentoring and induction funding
- Postsecondary education reporting for veterans

She also reported on the Governor's anti-bullying and broadband expansion bills.

Information was shared on the fine arts and curriculum bill, epinephrine in schools, the Assessment Task Force recommendation, and a bill that would strike the authority of the Board to determine the state's academic assessment.

There was discussion regarding the start date legislation.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Diane Crookham-Johnson moved and Mike Bearden seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Accreditation – Hamburg Community School District and Farragut Community School District**

Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, presented information regarding the Hamburg and Farragut Community School Districts' Phase II accreditation visits.

Members of the Department of Education's (Department) Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation, and Transportation Services, conducted a desk audit and site visit of Hamburg Community School District beginning May 27, 2014, as part of a full review of the district's finances. An accreditation committee appointed by the Department director visited the Hamburg Community School District on June 25-26, 2014, based on the district's failure to correct numerous and significant instances of noncompliance, which were originally cited in 2010. The Department prepared a report of that visit and presented that report to the Board, together with the district's responses, at the Board's October 30, 2014, meeting. On that date, the Board granted the Hamburg Community School District until February 16, 2015, "to implement the corrective actions required ... using the action plan submitted by the district and amended as recommended in the Department's analysis." The accreditation committee visited the district on February 17 and 18, 2015. The findings of that visit were summarized in a report that was submitted to the Board.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Department and Board Authority
  - Iowa Code section 256.11(10)
  - Phase I monitoring
  - Phase II monitoring
- Phase II Process
  - Conditional accreditation
  - If dissolution occurs

- History – Hamburg Community School District
- Current Status – Hamburg Community School District
- Department's Recommendation – Hamburg Community School District
  - Conditional accreditation
    - One year effective on board action
    - No closed building may be used – exception is food service
    - Substantial compliance required
    - Intensive support under differentiated accountability
    - Board action for revocation of accreditation upon violation of any condition
- Department's Concerns – Hamburg Community School District
  - Sustainability of correction of noncompliance
  - Ability to offer a full program
  - Sustainable collaboration with Farragut Community School District as a whole grade sharing partner
  - Costs of building addition
  - Declining enrollment

There was discussion regarding supplemental allowable growth, Hamburg Community School District's accessibility plan, the need for all of the conditions to be approved by the local boards, next steps if the local boards reject the conditions, whether the whole grade sharing agreement is a multi-year agreement, how the district's communication plan has been changed to inform the school board and staff members if noncompliance issues arise, and concern with sustainability.

### **Accreditation – Farragut Community School District**

Members of the Department's Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation and Transportation Services, conducted a desk audit and site visit of Farragut Community School District beginning May 27, 2014, as part of a full review of the district's finances.

An accreditation committee appointed by the Department director visited the Farragut Community School District on June 24-25, 2014, based on the district's failure to correct numerous and significant instances of noncompliance, which were originally cited in 2011. The Department prepared a report of that visit and presented it to the Board, together with the district's responses, at the Board's October 30, 2014, meeting. On that date, the Board granted the Farragut Community School District until February 16, 2015, "to implement the corrective actions required ... using the action plan submitted by the district and amended as recommended in the Department's analysis." The accreditation committee visited the district on February 18 and 19, 2015. The findings of that visit were summarized in a report that was submitted to the Board.

The PowerPoint presentation continued and addressed the following:

- History – Farragut Community School District
- Current Status – Farragut Community School District

There was discussion regarding how the accreditation committee found evidence that noncompliance issues had been corrected, how closing school districts is the option of last resort and how the Department will work with districts, and concern with student achievement in both the Hamburg and Farragut school districts.

Dave Mincer, Board President, Hamburg Community School District, thanked Department staff for their work. He shared comments about moving forward and stabilizing their school community.

Terry Kenealy, Superintendent, Hamburg Community School District, thanked the Department and Board for the opportunity to work on the corrective action plan and next steps moving forward. Specifically, he talked about staffing plans and improving student achievement.

Jennifer Varellas, Board President, Farragut Community School District, thanked all involved parties for the time and work in resolving the issues. She indicated that moving forward, Hamburg is looking at adding a third whole-grade sharing partner to ensure students are getting the education they need. She also indicated that she encouraged other board members to attend the Iowa Association of School Board's Convention informational sessions.

Kenealy discussed efforts being made to keep the board and community informed of the issues and to make this a transparent process.

There was discussion regarding both districts' declining enrollment and the state's responsibility in dealing with this issue, the English offerings in Farragut, transportation costs, whether there will be another attempt at reorganization, and whether or not the Farragut board is supportive of the changes.

Tim Hinrichs, Superintendent, Farragut Community School District, thanked the Department for its guidance. He introduced Farragut board members: Bob Lynn, Shelley Mount, Monica Whitehead, and Pam Nebel. The Farragut district was encouraged by the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to make their board more involved in the budget process.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board grant conditional accreditation to the Hamburg Community School District.

Williamson described the next steps. Both local school boards need to accept the conditions. The Board will then be notified that the conditions were accepted. Both districts will send the Department quarterly reports over the next year and the Board will be given an update of those reports. Unless the Board chooses to act, the districts will become fully accredited effective June 30, 2016. If the Board wants to make any amendments, the Department needs to be notified.

There was additional discussion regarding consequences if any of the conditions are violated. The conditions are:

- No closed building may be used – exception is food service
- Substantial compliance required
- Intensive support under differentiated accountability
  - Action plan
  - Quarterly visits
- Board action for revocation of accreditation upon violation of any condition

If there are any violations, the Board will be informed of the violation and can reconsider their accreditation immediately.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike Bearden seconded that the State Board grant conditional accreditation to the Farragut Community School District.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### ***In re Suspension of A.W. (West Des Moines Community School District)***

Nicole Proesch, designated Administrative Law Judge and Legal Counsel, Office of the Director, presented *In re Suspension of A.W. (West Des Moines Community School District)*. A.W. and his mother reside in the West Des Moines Community School District (WDCSD). Going into the 2014-2015 school year, A.W. was enrolled as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Valley High School. During the summer before the 2014-2015 school year, A.W. was involved in four separate incidents of vandalism on Valley High School property. The total estimated damages were \$4,580.00. A.W. admitted his involvement to law enforcement and assisted in its investigation.

As a result of his involvement, A.W. was immediately suspended from school and brought before the WDCSD Board for an expulsion hearing. At the hearing, the board heard evidence, testimony, and the recommendation from the administration to expel A.W. A.W. and his mother asked for a less severe punishment to include suspension. The local board declined to impose the administration's recommendation and instead voted 3-2 to suspend A.W. for the rest of the 2014-2015 school year and allow him to attend Four Oaks and continue his education.

A.W. and his mother appealed. A.W. argues that his punishment was too harsh in comparison to the other students involved and that it was inconsistent with the student handbook. The evidence shows that A.W. is not similarly situated to the other students in this case and thus, may be treated differently to reflect his involvement. The board policy is clear and the student handbook clearly provided A.W. with notice that he could be punished for his conduct. The handbook also reserved the right of administration to use discretion in each case.

Under the circumstances, the local board's decision was reasonable and considered A.W.'s continued educational interest.

It was recommended that the Board affirm the decision of the WDCSD Board to suspend A.W. for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

There was discussion regarding the Four Oaks program.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the West Des Moines Community School District.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies (AEAs)**

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, Division of School Finance and Support Services, reported that the Board has statutory responsibility to approve AEA budgets annually. The school finance team reviews the budget information that is submitted to the Department and ensures that AEAs are fulfilling their financial responsibilities.

Berger indicated that the AEA system is suffering under the cuts received in recent years. There's a statutory reduction of \$7.5 million a year. In the past, there's been additional reductions. Over five years, the AEAs' overall cash position has decreased by approximately \$20 million. The new Teacher Leadership and Compensation System provides limited financial support for AEAs. He stated that funding levels for AEAs are going the wrong direction if more is being expected of them.

Berger explained that there's a cap on how much cash AEAs can carry forward. If AEAs are over 10 percent, the Department is supposed to revert those funds. In previous years, there was stimulus money that put AEAs in a position to have excess funding that pushed them over 10 percent. The SBRC waived that requirement for a couple of years understanding that it takes time to spend funding down. All AEAs are in compliance with that statute; therefore, no reductions are occurring.

Lane Plugge, Green Hills AEA Administrator, reported almost all of the AEAs have their cash positions going down and have been reducing staff either through attrition or reduction in force.

There was discussion regarding how AEAs fund building improvements.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Angela English seconded that the State Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2015-2016.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Iowa College and Career Readiness Exemplars**

Director Brad Buck provided comments and Charlie Edwards presented certificates to the Iowa College and Career Readiness Exemplars. This program honors exemplary efforts to ensure Iowa's students are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce. Iowa is one of 34 states participating in the program through a partnership with ACT. This annual recognition program provides the opportunity to honor the outstanding efforts of one student, one school, one community college, and one employer.

This year's recipients were:

Layla Siddig, Iowa City  
Davenport Central High School  
Iowa Lakes Community College  
Decker Precision Machining, Peosta

Scott Montgomery, Director of ACT's College and Career Readiness Campaign, provided closing remarks.

## **Introduction – Iowa Teacher of the Year**

Isbelia Arzola, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, introduced Clemencia Spizzirri, the 2015 Iowa Teacher of the Year. Arzola shared information about Spizzirri's education, teaching experience, and passion.

Spizzirri will be joining the Department for one year in the Bureau of Educator Quality. She plans to participate on the Department's Collaborating for Kids (C4K) Oversight Committee, a committee that will be developing world language standards, and the Outstanding Iowa Teacher's Advisory Committee. She plans to visit colleges and universities, as well as nonprofit and for profit organizations.

Spizzirri indicated that in her role as Teacher of the Year, she will work to elevate the teaching profession and help students achieve.

## **Kirkwood Community College Interim Accreditation Report – Fiscal Year 2015**

Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, introduced Al Rowe, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Kirkwood Community College. Rowe also serves on the Community College Accreditation Advisory Committee.

Farver explained that this is the third year using the new accreditation process. The focus is on compliance and state standards. The Department conducted the on-site portion of the evaluation on November 3-4, 2014. Kirkwood Community College (KCC) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. The state accreditation process reviews state requirements, but does not duplicate the HLC process. HLC documentation is reviewed during the visit to identify any follow-up that may be required. State standards are reviewed through a structured process by Department staff and community college peer reviewers.



Farver indicated that a number of strengths were identified during the visit. The strengths include the strategic planning process, program evaluation, professional development, and policies and document review.

A best practice was identified in the area of facilities where the college uses a software program called "School Dude." This best practice will be shared with other Iowa community colleges.

Farver reported on issues of noncompliance that were identified in the areas of faculty (qualifications), special needs (nondiscrimination statement), and quality faculty plan.

Rowe provided comments regarding the accreditation process.

There was discussion regarding how KCC deals with the faculty issues.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for Kirkwood Community College. A state comprehensive accreditation evaluation will be conducted in fiscal year 2020.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

Rowe provided additional comments regarding competency-based education.

### **Science Standards Review**

David Tilly, Deputy Director, and Rita Martens, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, provided an update on the science standards review process.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Purpose and Charge of Review Team
- Steps in the Teams Process
- Public Forum Process
- Public Forums
  - Waukeez
  - Ottumwa
  - Dubuque
  - Sioux City
- Survey
- Next Steps
  - Meetings scheduled for April 14 and May 7, 2015
  - Continue review of data
  - Write recommendations to the State Board

Mary Ellen Miller shared comments from her experience attending the Science Standards Review Committee meeting. She also attended the public forum in Ottumwa where she felt the comments were overall positive.

Tilly indicated that in accordance with Governor Branstad's Executive Order 83, the Department will put the Iowa Core standards on a cycle of review. He talked about what has been learned going through this process.

There was discussion regarding the review cycle of the Iowa Core standards, whether the current science standards content is similar to the Next Generation Science Standards, and the importance to ensure alignment between standards and assessment.

### **Assessment Update and Discussion**

Current events related to the Legislature's deliberations on assessment was discussed. Mary Ellen Miller distributed a document to the Board that provided an overview of the work of the Assessment Task Force. This document was also presented to the House and Senate Education Committees.

Miller indicated that she, along with other members of the Assessment Task Force, offered testimony to the House and Senate Education Committees. She shared specifics of the presentation.

Representatives of Iowa Assessments and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium along with their vendor, Data Recognition Corporation, also presented to the House and Senate Education Committees. Miller shared specifics of that presentation as well.

Tilly talked about the cost and comparison of the assessments, the Request for Proposal process used in selecting a vendor, work of the Assessment Task Force, and the Request for Information process that was used.

### **Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force Conversation**

Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, provided an update on the work of the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force.

In 2013, House File 604 mandated the establishment of a Secondary CTE Task Force to review existing programming and make recommendations that reduce skill shortages, enhance economic growth, and ensure that all students have access to high quality, globally competitive career and technical education programs.

This legislation directed the task force to review and make recommendations on secondary CTE programs. This review is to consider measures to ensure consistency in CTE program quality statewide. The legislation directs the task force to review provisions of the Iowa Code and related provisions of the Iowa Administrative Code relating to "vocational education" or CTE. The task force is closing in on a core set of

goals and action steps which will form the basis of the group's recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly prior to the 2016 legislative session.

To date, the task force has discussed and finalized a revised definition for career academies, and explored recommendations related to career guidance and I Have a Plan Iowa (IHAPI). In addition to career guidance and regional centers, topics have included Intermediary Networks; Career Pathways; CTE instructor training, licensure, and professional development; and other policy measures. Final recommendations will aim to ensure equitable access to high-quality CTE programming for all students across the state.

### **State Board Retreat**

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, distributed the 2014 State Board retreat agenda and reviewed the format and structure that was used. Board members provided input and discussed the content and structure for the 2015 retreat.

### **Board Reports**

Mike Knedler complimented the Division of Community Colleges for their work. He indicated that there was legislation in 1965 commemorating community colleges.

Brooke Axiotis attended a meeting of the Des Moines Chapter of Links, Incorporated where there was discussion regarding closing the achievement gap. She attended a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference in Washington, D.C. She also plans to attend a NASBE event in Nebraska.

Mike May suggested that a couple Board members meet with Director Buck before his departure from the Department. He also talked about the possibility of the Board providing input to the governor regarding the next Department director or being part of the selection process.

Charlie Edwards will be making a presentation to the Iowa Association for Colleges of Teacher Education.

Mike Bearden shared comments regarding the need for the early start date and state supplemental aid issues to be resolved.

Hannah Rens talked about an Iowa Student Learning Initiative event that will be held on March 31, 2015.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President

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Brad A. Buck  
Director